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Report Highlights:

Sections Updated: I, VI, VII, VIII, X and Appendix I

Turkey is in the process of harmonizing its laws with the European Union. Regulations are often published or amended without notification to the industry or international bodies.

Therefore, exporters must work closely with importers to ensure that all requirements are met. Some importers have faced demands for import documents stating that products are "fit for human consumption" or "freely sold in the United States".

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Sections Updated: Sections I, VI, VII, VIII, X and contact names in Appendix - I

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/ Foreign Agricultural Service in Ankara, Turkey for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before the goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL FOR ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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Section I: Food Laws

The regulations on food and agricultural products are generally prepared and published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). However, there are also regulations published by other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health. Most Turkish agriculture-related regulations, laws, communiqués, directives, and notifications are available on the website of the Protection and Control General Directorate (GDPC) of MARA: www.kkgm.gov.tr. A few of the regulations have an English translation available on the same website. The legal infrastructure of agriculture is mainly based on communiqués rather than on laws. The reason for this is that the Turkish constitutional system does not allow laws to be adopted, amended or abolished easily. Therefore governments have traditionally preferred to publish communiqués. Currently, the main target of Turkish food and agriculture policy is to harmonize the related laws and regulations with the EU *acquis communautaire*. Sometimes it appears that this concern overwhelms other concerns such as national interest and farmers' interests. Moreover, the Turkish government does not inform the public or international bodies such as the WTO about possible or actual regulation changes. In addition, the same regulations can often be inconsistently applied in different provincial directorates and at different times.

Currently Turkey's principle law on governing food is the, "Production, Consumption and Inspection of Food" law, number 5179. This law has been in force since May 27, 2004, when it replaced the June 24, 1995 regulation number 22327. The purpose of the current law, as outlined in its first Article, is to provide food safety, to assure the hygienic production of all food products and food packaging materials, to protect public health, to establish the minimum technical and hygienic criteria for food producers, and to set forth the principles of monitoring production and distribution. The law amends the framework of the Turkish Food Codex which covers the analysis methods of monitoring the quality and hygiene standards of foods, additives, aroma materials, pesticides, and the rules for packaging, storing, and forwarding in a way to establish further adaptation to the European Union regulations. This law has resulted in the creation of the National Food Codex Commission whose responsibility is to prepare, review and approve all changes to the Turkish Food Codex, including those changes that take place through EU harmonization. There are currently 25 sub-committees working on specific revisions to various aspects of the Turkish Food Codex.

In addition to the 2004 Food Law, the Turkish food industry and food imports are primarily regulated by several other related laws and regulations: the November 16, 1997 Turkish Food Codex, the June 8, 1998 Food Regulation and a September 1, 2003 Notification related to the control processes during the import phase and the approval of the Control Document (import license) of the packaging materials that are in contact with food and food materials. The current Turkish Food Codex and all amendments, new regulations, notifications, are available at the GDPC website. In addition, bulk or semi-processed plant materials and meat and dairy products are subject to Plant Quarantine Law (Law No: 6968) and Animal Health Law (Law No: 3285). The Plant Quarantine Law is in force since 1957, and in 2003 it was amended by regulation to ensure EU harmonization. The most recent version of the law can be found at: <http://www.kkgm.gov.tr/regulation/regulations.html> and an explanation can also be found in GAIN TU7007.

The majority of food and non-food imports require what Turkey calls a "control certificate". A control certificate is in essence an import license. It is granted to the importer at the discretion of the import officials. As per the "Standardization in Foreign Trade Communiqué" of January 17 2007, the import process for each product begins with an application for issuance of a control certificate. The process is described in Communiqué No. 2003/31, which is posted online, in English, at: http://www.kkgm.gov.tr/regulation/com/Com_Approval.html

All food products for which a control certificate is required are listed with the HS customs codes in the second and the third Article of Communiqué 2007/21 and in Annex-IVA of the Communiqué on Standardization in Foreign Trade. These products include cereals, milling industry products, oilseeds, animal and vegetable fats, residues, dairy and fish products, live trees and other plants. A few food products such as coffee, natural gums, vegetable saps and extracts, vegetable waxes, and cocoa are not required to have a control certificate prior to import, but should have the necessary documents to be cleared from customs. Products that don't need a control certificate are listed in Annex-IVB of the same Communiqué. For processed products, these certificates are required for each shipment. They expire, depending on the specific product, after 2 to 12 months. If the validity is not specified, it is 2 months for animal products and 12 months for other products, as of the date of issuance. Control certificates are sometimes used as a political instrument to deny or delay the importation of some products.

While many U.S. foods are imported into Turkey without problems, some U.S. companies have encountered difficulty complying with demands from import officials for certificates that are not normally issued in the United States. For example, sometimes port officials ask for certificates with the wording "safe for human consumption" or "freely sold in the United States" but the U.S. FDA will not normally write these statements on their export certificates. Sometimes exporters can get Certificates of Free Sale at their state level department of agriculture, department of health, or other local offices. Requirements and standards for some imported foods may be stricter than both those currently applied in the EU and those applied to domestically produced products. Pet foods are one example. The Turkish food law requires that products be inspected at the point of entry as well as at wholesale and retail levels.

Turkey previously had domestic purchase requirements for rice imports, however these domestic purchase requirements have been removed.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

A. General Requirements

The communiqué regulating the packaging and labeling of food materials is dated August 25, 2002 and numbered 2002/58. This regulation was prepared within the framework of harmonization with the EU Directives 2000/13/EEC on the Labeling, Presentation and Advertising of Foodstuffs, 90/496/EEC Directive on Nutrition Labeling of Foodstuffs, and Directive 80/232/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the ranges of nominal quantities and nominal capacities permitted for certain prepackaged products. This regulation was amended once in 2004 and twice in 2006. By this regulation, every food product in the market has to be labeled clearly, completely and accurately in the Turkish language. An imported food item, however, may arrive in its original package, but a permanent 'sticker' label, in Turkish, must be attached to the package before it is marketed. Other languages in addition to Turkish may also appear. Labeling requirements are enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and local municipality officials. This regulation sets forth in detail, under what circumstances a food product can be labeled, for example, as "light", or "no sugar" or how the vitamin and mineral information should be stated. The regulation also details what warnings should be indicated under what contents.

The following information must be printed on all food labels, imported or domestic:

- Name and brand of product
- Name and address of producing, packaging and importing companies

- Production batch number and date
- Place of Production and Country of Origin
- Expiration date/shelf life (see below)
- Nutrition and caloric values
- Net weight/volume
- List of ingredients and additives
- Ministry of Agriculture production or import license number/and date
- Storage, preparation and usage instructions when needed
- Name and type of packing material
- Special warnings, if appropriate
- Percentage of alcohol (if the product contains more than 1.2 percent alcohol)

If the product has a shelf life of less than three months, it must include the day/month/year of expiration, if the shelf life is more than three months but less than eighteen, the month and year are required and if the shelf life is more than three years, only the year is required. In the case of fruits and vegetables, which might be sold in bins or open stands, labels are required on the exterior of bulk packaging. Another regulation requires that labels for fruit "juices" specify whether the product contains fruit juice (90-100% concentration), nectar (20-50% concentration), or fruit drinks (up to 10% concentration). Also, the communiqué 2007/26 on Non-Alcoholic Beverages details the labeling requirements of fruit juices, aromatized drinks, syrups, juice powders, natural mineral waters, sodas, tonics and aromatized waters.

There are several regulations regarding labeling which require information on product content. In 2004, the vitamin and mineral claim in liquid food products was amended from 7.5 percent of the reference nutrition value in 100 ml to 15 percent. The regulation also encompasses the net weight/volume chart detailed for various products. The Turkish Food Codex prohibits the inclusion of statements like "prevents or cures disease" on labels. In 2006, this article was amended and this prohibition was extended to the promotion and advertisement of the food products. Several regulations have been published about energy drinks and the import specifications have changed often. A regulation released in April 2005 modified the energy drinks regulation and limited the caffeine levels to 320 mg per liter and required health warnings on the label. On October 2006, another directive numbered 2006/47 lowered the caffeine level to 150 mg per liter, and required the labels to indicate a "Nutrition Facts" chart. Also with this regulation, it is now required to indicate on the labels of energy drinks, "Should not be consumed by mixing with alcohol. This is not a sports drink. Not more than 500 ml should be consumed per day. It is not recommended for children under 18, elderly, diabetics, pregnant or breastfeeding women, or people sensitive to caffeine".

A regulation published on April 6, 2005, requires that imported wine and alcoholic beverages have a Turkish label attached to the container during production or prior to arrival to Turkey. On March 17, 2007, the Ministry of Finance published a communiqué in the Official Gazette, which entered into force on June 15. This new communiqué required that a banderol be attached on the labels of all domestically produced or imported tobacco and alcoholic products, except for beer. For beer, there must be a code identifying the production facility on the label. This regulation was put into force mainly to prevent smuggling, which had recently increased due to very high taxes. The complete English translation of this regulation is in FAS GAIN report TU7026 and is available on the FAS website, www.fas.usda.gov.

B. Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling

Items that are suitable for individuals that have metabolic or digestive disorders and special physiological conditions can use "diet" on the label according to the regulation dated April 22,

2002. MARA updated its regulations related to nutritional labeling on August 25, 2002. Nutritional labeling is only required if the product is for a particular nutritional or dietary requirement (such as diabetic) and if it is modified for that purpose. Nutritional values (by 100 gr. measures) must be included on labels for locally produced and imported nutritional products. Nutritional values should include protein, carbohydrate and fat content of the product. If the energy and/or fat content of a product is reduced by twenty-five percent, the word "reduced" or "light" may be printed on the label. The standard U.S. nutritional fact panel may be included on the label, but cannot replace the locally required information. Disputes regarding health claims in food should be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for setting and imposing regulations for packaging and containers that may come into contact with food. Turkish food packing material regulations were revised on Sept. 1, 2003, and most recently through a series of notifications on July 4, 2005. The importation of some food packaging materials may require an import license. According to the regulations, in each case a health certificate is required from a public authority i.e., State Department of Public Health. In some cases the Ministry also accepts a "Certificate of Free Sale". It is imperative to check with the importer to determine what language is required and accepted. Turkish regulations include nine different standards for food grade packaging materials, including paper, glass, metal, and plastics like PET and PVC bottles. There are different communiqués published to set forth requirements of each type of food packaging material. For example, for plastic packaging material the regulations numbered 2005/31, 2005/33, 2005/34; for cellulose materials the regulation is communiqué 2001/39; for ceramics it is 2001/38. Sizes and types of packaging used for foods are generally flexible, but there are some restrictions. These regulations are available on the GDPC website.

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

The Turkish Food Codex lists maximum amounts of additives allowed in food items (positive list) as well as conditions under which additives cannot be used. For example, it is forbidden to use added sweeteners in infant formulas and baby foods (0-3 years). The food additive section of the codex is quite detailed and is drafted to conform to EU regulations. It refers to the FEMA and COE codes for additives, when applicable. Of concern to exporters of processed products is that all flavors (which may be proprietary) be specifically listed in the application for product registration. See Appendix III for a partial list of labeling requirements for imported food additives and flavorings.

Section V: Pesticide and Other Contaminants

The Turkish Food Codex lists the maximum level of pesticides and veterinary medicines which are permitted in food items, and undergoes occasional updates. The list of permitted pesticides and veterinary medicines are covered in Addendum 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the Turkish Food Codex. While Addendum 14, 15, and 16 cover other contaminants, Addendum 17 covers regulations on Pesticides. Only Addendum 17 is available in the Protection and Control's website and it is only in Turkish.

The Turkish Food Law maintains provisions for regulators to refer to the Codex Alimentarius or EU Directives if the pesticides or veterinary medicine products are not contained in the Turkish Food Codex.

Section VI: Other Regulations and Requirements

Importers are responsible for registering each product. The process normally takes up to one week. Laboratory testing is required for all products.

The sample analysis costs at the public control laboratories are determined annually by a commission organized by the General Directorate, taking into consideration the analysis expenditures.

Sending samples: Requirements for product sample shipments are slightly different than for products intended for consumption. For the importation of samples, there is no pre-permission or control certificate required. Technically, there are no documentation requirements if the sample is for an exhibit or scientific research.

For commercial samples, the importer needs to fill out a special form from the Provincial Agricultural Directorate and provide a copy of the pro forma invoice (if it is free of charge, this is simply stated on the invoice). Once the Provincial Agricultural Directorate has that form, they will do a letter to customs to notify them to release the sample. Note - there is still no health certificate requirement.

Section VII: Cotton, Vegetable Oils and Grains-

Traditionally, Turkey's biggest agricultural imports from the United States have been cotton, soybeans and products, and vegetable oils. The United States is Turkey's biggest cotton supplier. Turkey imports cotton duty-free regardless of the country of origin. As per a decree dated April 26, 2007, cotton imports are allowed to enter only through the customs offices in the following cities: Istanbul, Bursa, Mersin, Izmir, Denizli, Ankara, Kayseri, and Gaziantep.

For vegetable oils, the import taxes vary depending on the product and the country of origin. For crude soy oil, the import tax is 31.2 percent for all origins. However, it is only subject to a 10 percent duty if it is for industrial use and 19.5 percent if it is for bio-diesel production. Refined soybean oil is subject to a 35 percent duty. Refined soybean and cottonseed oil for industrial use is only subject to a 10 percent duty, and the rate is 19.5 percent if it is for bio-diesel. Crude sunflower seed oil is subject to 36 percent customs duty for EU and WTO countries and refined sunflower seed oil is subject to 50 percent customs tax from all sources. Other vegetable oils such as soy, corn, palm, palm kernel and canola are subject to a 31.2 percent duty.

Turkey has traditionally been a major producer of grain products, however imports vary according to the size and quality of Turkey's domestic production. The government has used tariff and non-tariff barriers such as high import duties, seasonal bans, domestic purchase requirements, and quota systems to limit imports. Published import taxes on grain products are as high as 100 percent for barley and 130 percent for wheat, rye, and corn. The general policy of the government is to seasonally reduce the import taxes to allow imports until the domestic demand is met and then to raise the import taxes. For example, a decree was published to reduce the import tax on corn from 130 percent to 35 percent between June 9 and July 31, 2007. On August 1, it was again raised to pre-June 9 levels. In 2007 and 2008 due to drought conditions in parts of Turkey, many duties were drastically reduced or even removed, temporarily.

A recent modification of the standard for oil content in DDGS (Dried Distillers Grains and Solubles) improved market access for U.S. suppliers. Previously the maximum permitted oil

content in DDGS was 7 percent, which only a few corn processing plants could meet. The new standard of 12 percent should make all U.S. DDGS importable.

Section VIII: Other Specific Standards

There are special requirements and promotion limitations for some food products. If a product's regulations contain requirements above the conventional requirements listed in the Turkish Food Codex, then it is issued in an independent communiqué. In this regard, the production, storage, marketing and transportation of products listed below are determined by independent communiqués:

Non-alcoholic Drinks (2007/26), Aromatized Wines (2006/28), Baby Food and Supplementary Baby Food (2001/20), Gluten-Free Food(2003/33), Chocolate and Chocolate Products(2003/23), for Vegetable Oils(2001/29), Ice cream(2004/45), Frozen Food(2002/7 & 2004/46&2001/45), Cocoa and cocoa products(2000/10), Pasta(2002/20), Lentils (2003/25), Rice(2001/10), Sweeteners(2003/44&2002/28) Chewing gum(99/2).

Details can be found, in English, on the following website:
<http://www.kkgm.gov.tr/TFC/tfc.html>

Live Cattle and Meat: Turkey currently has a ban on all meat, beef, poultry and slaughter cattle imports. There had also been an import ban on all breeding cattle since December 2003 because of BSE except from countries which had not had a case of the disease. However, in July 2007, the United States and Turkey signed a protocol to permit the import of live female breeding cattle from the United States. The summary of requirements is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/tu.html.

Poultry Products: Turkey allows imports of poultry products only for re-export. However, Turkey allows imports of pet food which contains poultry products, but these products are subject to various restrictions due to Avian Influenza. For current regulations on importing pet foods, contact the FAS Office at agankara@fas.usda.gov

In order to track which products are restricted for which diseases in Turkey, one must go to the following website: www.kkgm.gov.tr/genel/birimfaal.html. On this page you need to click "Hayvan Hareketleri" and then click on: "Hayvan Hastalıkları Nedeniyle Yasak Konulan Ülkeler ve Yasaklanan Maddeler". The list of all countries appears in the first column with the corresponding disease in the next column. The list is in alphabetical order and the United States comes first because in Turkish it is abbreviated as "ABD." This is listed both in Turkish and in English.

Gelatin Capsules: MARA requirements for imports of gelatin capsules vary depending on whether they are empty or filled capsules and are restricted for BSE reasons. The only statement required for pure gelatin is "fit for human consumption." Health certificates for gelatin capsules that are either filled or empty must have the following statements or together, two separate government issued health certificates must contain the following statements:

- Gelatin is sourced from either plant material or non-ruminant material (porcine meat is allowed);
- Materials are fit for human consumption. (Empty capsules can contain the statement, "Free for sale for human consumption" instead of the statement, "fit for human consumption");
- Ruminant origin materials are free from BSE (defined as originating from countries that are BSE-free, such as Uruguay, Australia and New Zealand)

In addition to these statements, the end-product must be produced in a non-BSE State. Even if the material is imported, the certificate must state that the end product was "produced in X State" (any State that has not had a case of BSE)

Filled gelatin capsules have the same requirements as stated above for empty capsules. In addition, the certificate needs to list the contents of the capsules. Control certificates are required for empty and filled gelatin capsules but not for pure gelatin. Currently, gelatin is forbidden if it is produced from any bovine sources. It can only be produced using hides and skins in facilities approved by Turkish officials. At this time, only two companies (one in Spain and one in Slovenia) are approved.

Energy Drinks: There have been several amendments in the energy drinks regulations since it was first implemented in 2002. The latest regulation change was published on the Official gazette on July 04, 2006 with ref. no.: 26309. With this new regulation, the caffeine amount is limited to 150 mg/L in energy drinks. Moreover, energy drinks should not contain more than the following:

- Inositol	100 mg/L
- Glucoronolactone	20 mg/L
- Taurine	800 mg/L

Section IX: Copyright and Trademark Laws

Companies must apply to the Turkish Patent and Trademark Institute for trademark registration. A separate application is required for each brand name. After the initial inspection and check, the trademark is announced in the Official Trademark Gazette for three months. If there are no objections during this period, the trademark can be registered. The process takes about four months and currently costs about \$310.

Section X: Import Procedures

Import Regulations

Imports of food products into Turkey are allowed only if they conform to Turkey's Food Codex Regulations. Turkey is harmonizing all of its food import regulations with those of the European Union via the Turkish Food Codex Regulation. If the product in question is not covered by the Turkish Food Codex, officials can reference the international Codex Alimentarius or relevant EU Directives on a case-by-case basis. Previously, there were domestic purchasing requirements for importing rice. These have been removed.

The Import Process

In order to import any foodstuff, an importer must first submit a written application to the relevant Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authority (PADA). (See Appendix I). No products can be imported until the PADA issues a control certificate, which, as mentioned above, works as an import license or permit. The application package depends on the type of product, which is outlined on the GDPC website (www.kkgm.gov.tr). For example, to import processed products, the application must include:

1. A completed import license form obtainable from the website above;
2. A Pro forma Invoice;
3. An Analysis Report from a government agency or on the exporting company's letterhead, providing physical, chemical, microbiological and heavy metal specifications on the product imported. Frozen seafood is exempted from this requirement.

4. For consumer-ready products, a sanitary or phytosanitary certificate from the government food inspection agency of the country of origin stating that the product meets the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. This is normally a "Certificate of Free Sale" issued by a State authority which must indicate that "the product was produced in accordance with local laws and regulations and is fit for human consumption and is freely marketed in the country origin";
5. A sample of the Turkish label for the product.
6. For alcohol products, a "distribution certificate" provided by the producer's company to the importer and/or distributor indicating that the Turkish company is authorized to market and deliver the product in Turkey;
7. For "special" foods such as diet foods, foods for diabetics, vitamins, baby foods, etc. the importer must provide a written declaration that the product will not be advertised in such a way as to mislead the consumer.

The importer will normally receive written approval along with an approved control certificate from the Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authority within one or two weeks.

Customs Inspection and Documentation

Upon entry of the product at Customs, the importer should be prepared to present the approved control certificate as well as other normal import documentation such as the bill of lading, original invoice and certificate of origin. In addition, the importer should be prepared to present Customs with the exporting company's analysis report for physical, chemical, microbiological and heavy metal content, and a phytosanitary certificate from the official food inspection agency of the country of origin stating that the product meets the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

Turkish Ministry of Agriculture officials take samples of the imported product to government laboratories for physical, chemical and microbiological analysis and confirm it matches the information supplied from the exporting country. Import of the foodstuff is allowed if the results of the analysis are found to be acceptable and consistent with Turkish regulations, and the imports have been approved by the MARA. Results of the analysis are normally completed within a few working days.

In addition, if the foodstuff is a bulk or semi-processed commodity, it is checked by plant quarantine specialists or veterinarians for consistency with the Plant Quarantine Law (Law No: 6968) and Animal Health Law (Law No: 3285).

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Dr. Muzaffer Aydemir, General Director
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Koruma ve Kontrol Genel Mudurlugu
Akay Cad. No: 3, Ankara, Turkey
Phone: (90 312) 425-7789 Fax: (90 312) 418-6318

Dr. Ahmet Aslan, Acting Deputy General Director
The Food Control Division
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Koruma ve Kontrol Genel Mudurlugu
Akay Cad. No: 3 Ankara, Turkey
Phone: (90-312) 343 69 36

Fax: (90-312) 344 68 72

There are 20 Provincial Agricultural Directorate Authorities, each of which has the first-line regulatory authority to issue control certificates for specific products. They are intended to be the primary point of contact for importers to submit their import applications. The complete list can be found at the website: www.kkgm.gov.tr

The Main Provincial Directorate Authorities are:

Dr. Ihsan Corekci
Section Chief/Food Control
Provincial Agricultural Directorate-Istanbul
Tarim II Mudurlugu
Bagdat Cad. No.333
Kontrol Sube Mudurlugu, Kadikoy
Istanbul, Turkey
Phone: (90-216) 3698150
Fax: (90-216) 467 23 85 or (90-216) 355 37 15

Muzaffer Agar
Izmir Provincial Director
Izmir Tarim II Mudurlugu
Universite Cad. No: 47 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey
Phone: (90-232) 435 10 02 or (90-232) 462 21 80
Fax: (90-232) 462 59 14

Aydogan Ari
Mersin Provincial Director
Mersin Tarim II Mudurlugu
Gazi Mah. Mersin, Turkey
Phone: (90-324) 326 40 13
Fax: (90-324) 326 40 12

There are 40 provincial food control laboratories, the three largest being:

- 1) Ankara Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate Ankara, Turkey
Phone: (90 312) 315-0089 or 315-8709 Fax: (90 312) 315 7934
- 2) Istanbul Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate Istanbul, Turkey
Phone: (90 212) 663-3961 or 663-3959 Fax: (90 212) 663-4296
- 3) Izmir Provincial Food Control Laboratory Directorate Izmir, Turkey
Phone: (90 232) 435-1481 or 435 0396 / 435-1481 / 435-6637
Fax: (90 232)-462 4197

Turkish Patent Institute
Izmir Cad. No. 28, Kizilay, Ankara
Phone (90 312) 232-5425 Fax (90 312) 424 1263

Competition Authority (Mr. Fevzi Ozkan-Food Issues)
B-3 Blok, Bilkent Plaza
Ankara, Turkey
Phone: (90 312) 266-6969/ext. 6007 Fax (90 312) 266-7920

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Contacts

U.S. exporters are advised to contact the FAS offices in Ankara or Istanbul for additional information and/or a list of private sector firms which can provide assistance with customs

clearance and import regulation issues. In most cases, the importing company or agent should be familiar with (and ultimately responsible for) existing regulations.

Foreign Agricultural Service Offices in Turkey

American Embassy

110 Ataturk Blvd.

Kavaklidere, Ankara

Tel: +90-312-455 55 55

Fax: +90-312-467 00 56

Email: agankara@fas.usda.gov

American Consulate, Istanbul

Kaplicalar Mevki Sokak

Istinye, 334460 Istanbul

Tel: +90-212-335-9000

Fax: +90-212-335-9077

Email: agistanbul@fas.usda.gov

Appendix III: Additional Labeling requirements

A. Turkish Labeling for Imported Foodstuffs

1. The name and address of the exporting company;
2. The name(s) and corresponding EU tariff number(s) of the food additive(s);
3. The names, uses, and amounts in decreasing order, of any other substances used to dilute, dissociate, standardize, or facilitate the storage and marketing of the food additive;
4. The specific usage and storage instructions, if needed;
5. A statement indicating that the additive can be used in food;
6. The lot and serial number;
7. The net quantity;
8. If the additive is to be used only in restricted amounts, the applicable percentage restrictions;
9. If the product is derived from an animal, indication of the animal type.
10. The date of production;
11. The expiration date, conforming with provisions of Section 9 of the TFCR on packaging and labeling;
12. The import permission date and number;
13. Artificial sweeteners such as aspartame which will be sold directly to the consumer should have a cautionary statement that the product if used in excess can cause diarrhea, and that the product includes phenylalanine if applicable.

B. Turkish Labeling for Food Flavoring

1. The name and address of the manufacturer or packer or seller company;
2. A statement indicating that this is a "Flavoring Substances" or a more specific description of the flavoring;
3. A statement indicating that this flavoring substance is suitable to be used in food;
4. The list of flavoring substances by their categories in decreasing order;
5. The names, classifications, and EU numbers in decreasing order of those flavoring substances listed in Article 9 of the Food Flavoring Section (Section VI) below, if they are used in the food;
6. The maximum quantities of those ingredients allowed are listed in Appendix 12
7. A statement indicating that this flavoring substance is "For Food Production";
8. Net quantity;
9. The lot or serial number;
10. The date of production and shelf life;
11. The import permission date and number;
12. The specific storage and usage conditions, if needed;

NOTE: If the food additive is sold directly to the consumer, it should also contain instructions for use.

C. Additional Information on Food Additives

The classification, name or synonym; and EU food additive number; the name of the final food product that the food additive may be used in; the maximum amount of the food additive that may be used; and other technical requirements related to food additives are provided in Appendices 1 through 11 of the Turkish Food Codex Regulation (TFCR). Among the regulations contained in the TFCR are lists of 1) substances that may not be used as food additives 2) food items for which food additives are not allowed and 3) food items for which coloring materials may not be used. These lists are given below.

1. A partial list of substances that may not be used as food additives:
 - * White or yellow dextrine, roasted or dextrinated starch, starch modified with acidic or alkaloid treatment, bleached starch, physically modified starch, and starch treated by enzymes,
 - * Ammonium chlorine,
 - * All amino acids and their salts, glycine, cysteine, cystine and its salts, and those that do not have an additive function,
 - * Casein and caseinates,
 - * Flavoring substances,
 - * Minerals, vitamins and all other similar substances used to support nutritional values of the food.
2. A partial list of foods for which additives are not allowed:
 - * Bulk or semi-processed non processed commodities,
 - * Honey,
 - * Vegetable and livestock origin non emulsified solid and liquid fats and oils,
 - * Naturally fermented but non-flavored milk products,
 - * Sugar,
 - * Dried pasta,
3. A partial list of foodstuffs for which food colorings are not allowed except under those conditions listed in Appendix 7 of the TFCR:
 - * Raw vegetable and livestock origin solid and liquid fats and oils,
 - * Eggs and egg products,
 - * Flour, flour products and starch,
 - * Bakery products,
 - * Pasta products,
 - * Sugar,
 - * Tomato paste and canned tomatoes,
 - * Tomato origin sauces,
 - * Fruit and vegetable juices and nectars,
 - * Processed fruits, vegetables and mushrooms,
 - * Chestnut paste,
 - * Red and white meat, including sea products and poultry, and their products,
 - * Roasted coffee, tea, and chicory and their extracts and mixes,
 - * Wines,
 - * Wine vinegars,
 - * All baby foods,
 - * Honey,
 - * Malt and malt products,
 - * Non flavored cheese,

In addition, the following criteria are applied to food additives:

- * No artificial sweeteners may be used in baby food.
- * Seasonings like paprika, saffron, turmeric etc. may be used in the production of food products because they are not considered to be coloring materials.

D. Additional Information on Food Flavorings

The maximum quantities of food flavoring substances are listed in Table 12 of the Turkish Food Codex. Among the regulations governing the use of food flavorings are the following:

1. There must not be any item or element in the flavoring substances which could have a toxic effect.
2. The quantities of the following elements but not be exceeded:
 - Arsenic : 3 mg/kg
 - Lead : 10 mg/kg
 - Cadmium : 1 mg/kg
 - Mercury : 1 mg/kg
3. The amount of 3.4 benzopyrene must not exceed 0.03 mg/kg.
5. If the flavoring substances are derived from a livestock product then the product type must be indicated.

Appendix IV: Documents needed to obtain Control Certificate/Import License for various items

Special Nutritional Food

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Health Certificate
Component List
Specification Document
Product Label
Commercial Activity Certificate*1

Energy Drinks and Alcoholic Beverages

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Component List
Product Label
Certificate of Free Sale
Commercial Activity Certificate *1

Animal Products (Pork Products Only)

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Component List
Sample Health Certificate
Letter of Undertaking (Promissory note to provide original health certificate upon arrival of goods)
Product Label
Commercial Activity Certificate *1

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Commercial Activity Certificate *1

Cheese

Cover letter to application

Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Sample Health Certificate
Letter of Undertaking (Promissory note to provide original health certificate
Upon arrival of goods)
Component List
Specification Document
Product Label
Commercial Activity Certificate *1
Trade Registry Gazette*2
Import License (original copy, notarized copy and their photocopies)

Butter

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Sample Health Certificate
Letter of Undertaking (Promissory note to provide original health certificate
upon arrival of goods)
Component List
Specification Document
Product Label
Commercial Activity Certificate *1
Trade Registry Gazette*2
Inward Processing Permit or Import License (original copy, notarized copy and their
photocopies)

Stone Fruit (walnut, almond, etc.)

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Commercial Activity Certificate *1

Dried powdered products

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Certificate or Letter of Undertaking
Commercial Activity Certificate *1
Trade Registry Gazette*2

Dried Products in granule or lumps

Cover letter to application
Control Certificate form
Proforma Invoice
Component List
Commercial Activity Certificate *1
Trade Registry Gazette*2

*1 The importing firms will present their commercial activity certificate only during the first application. This certificate will not be required with the following applications.

*2 A Trade Registry Gazette is required if the commercial activity certificate does not clearly indicate importing as one of the commercial activities.